

REMARKS

The above amendment are in response to the November 29, 2006 office action.

Claim 1 had been amended to clarify that the first movable belts are configured for feeding sheets along a first arc. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subjection matter of the invention has been overcome.

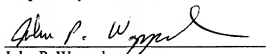
The present amendment also overcomes the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103. None of the references cited by the Examiner discloses or teaches an upper edge guide having a concave arcuate surface and a finger in communication with the upper edge of sheets in the stack. Golicz (U.S. Pat. 4,928,944) cited by the Examiner discloses a supply roller (46) in contact with an edgewise-loaded paper stack. The supply roller (46) has a convex arcuate surface. Further, Golicz does not disclose an edge guide having a finger for separating a lead sheet.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested. If there is any issue remaining to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that resolution can be promptly effected.

The present Amendment is submitted with a petition for a one-month extension of time and a request for continued examination, along with payment of the required fees. It is believed that no additional fees are due at this time. However, the Office is authorized to charge and additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 12-0913, with reference to Attorney Docket No. 39152-94935.

Date: 3/28/2007

Respectfully submitted,



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